

Message Text

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R 200533Z NOV 74N

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8512

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13703

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (VALEO, FRANCIS R.)

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL VALEO (VISIT TO MANILA OF SECRETARY OF THE
SENATE FRANCIS R. VALEO, NOV. 11-15, 1974)

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRIMARY PURPOSE OF VALEO VISIT WAS TO
EVALUATE IMPACT US-CHINA DETENTE ON COUNTRIES OF SE ASIA
WITH REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE CHINA VISIT BY SENATOR
MANSFIELD. WE GATHER HE DEPARTED MANILA SATISFIED
THAT IN CASE OF PHILIPPINES THERE ARE NO MAJOR PROBLEMS
ON THIS SCORE. BEYOND THIS HE DISPLAYED PARTICULAR
INTEREST IN ECONOMIC SITUATION (INCLUDING LAND REFORM).
VALEO SAID HE DOES NOT ANTICIPATE WRITING SPECIAL
REPORT ON PHILIPPINES AS A RESULT OF THIS TRIP BUT WILL
TREAT CHINA RELATIONS ASPECT IN REPORT COVERING ENTIRE
VISIT WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE MADE PUBLIC. AS ON PRE-
VIOUS VISITS HE WAS MET AND ATTENDED THROUGHOUT VISIT BY
STAFF OF FIRST LADY'S BROTHER, "KOKOY" ROMUALDEZ. END
SUMMARY.

2. STAFFDEL VALEO RETURNED TO PHILIPPINES AS OLD FRIEND
(HE HAS BEEN HERE MANY TIMES IN THE PAST) WITH LIMITED
INTENTION OF SURVEYING HOW DEVELOPING US-CHINA DETENTE
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WILL IMPACT ON OTHERS IN REGION. HE INTENDS TO PREPARE

SPECIAL REPORT THIS SUBJECT BEFORE POSSIBLE SENATOR MANSFIELD TRIP TO CHINA AND (IN CONTRAST TO HIS PREVIOUS VISIT IN 1972) HE DOES NOT PLAN SEPARATE REPORT ON PHILIPPINES.

3. AS ON PREVIOUS VISITS VALEO WAS GREETED BY STAFF OF "KOKOY" ROMUALDEZ, WHO ENSCONCED HIM IN PRESIDENTIAL SUITE AT PHILIPPINE VILLAGE HOTEL, AND PROVIDED HIM WITH AMENITIES INCLUDING ESCORT FROM KOKOY'S STAFF, CADILLAC LIMOUSINE FROM FIRST LADY'S FLEET, ETC. IN CONTRAST TO STAFF DEL MOOSE/MEISSNER WHO DID NOT RECEIVE APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT, VALEO SAW HIM TWICE (INCLUDING NOV. 14 POLOTA SESSION WHICH LEFT HIM WITH A SLIGHTLY LAMED ARM AS SOUVENIR OF VISIT.)

4. AMBASSADOR AND POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COUNSELORS BRIEFED VALEO IN DEPTH ON CURRENT SITUATION. WITH REGARD TO HIS PRIMARY INTEREST IN RP RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITY, VALEO APPEARED TO ACCEPT EMBASSY VIEW THAT US AND RP POLICIES TOWARD PRC ARE ESSENTIALLY COMPLEMENTARY, AND THAT (DESPITE AS YET UNSOLVED PROBLEMS OF STATELESS) PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITY IS RELATIVELY WELL INTEGRATED AND WILL BE ABLE TO WEATHER TRANSITION, BOLSTERED BY KNOWLEDGE THAT DE FACTO RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN WILL CONTINUE TO BE CORDIAL.

5. THE CONVERSATION WITH ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, VALEO WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PROBLEMS OF CORRUPTION, GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, LAUREL LANGLEY, (ESPECIALLY QUESTION OF LAND OWNERSHIP) PLUS TRADE BILL (AND POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES IN EVENT IT DOESN'T PASS). VALEO SOUGHT AND WAS GIVEN SECOND ENCOUNTER ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT ISSUES.

6. IN DISCUSSION WITH POL COUNSELOR, VALEO LISTENED WITHOUT MUCH COMMENT TO FRANK APPRAISAL CURRENT STATUS OF MARTIAL LAW. ON US-PHIL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP HE EXPRESSED GRAVE DOUBT THAT NEW CONGRESS WOULD SUPPORT CONCEPT OF MILITARY AID MUCH LONGER (FMS AS WELL AS CONFIDENTIAL

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GRANT AID), OR THAT CONTINUED MILITARY AID FOR PHILIPPINES COULD BE JUSTIFIED EVEN AS RENTAL FOR BASES UNLESS CONGRESS TOLD FLATLY THEY ARE REQUIRED FOR US (NOT PHIL) SECURITY NEEDS. SHOULD GOP PRESS US FOR MORE QUID AND IN ABSENCE OF WHAT HE SAW AS CONGRESSIONAL WILLINGNESS TO PAY GOP FOR BASE QYE,# VALEO SEVERAL TIMES SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION OF RETURN OF SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS OF CLARK. WE NOTED THAT LAND LARGELY UNTILLABLE AND NOT

LIKELY BE REGARDED AS ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO MORE SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE.

7. SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL VALEO ASKED TO SEE USAID SUPPORTED FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS IN CENTRAL LUZON. HE ALSO WISHED TO SEE LAND REFORM ACTIVITY AT LOCAL LEVEL. AS A RESULT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR LAID ON HELICOPTER TOUR OF CENTRAL LUZON ON MORNING OF NOV. 13 (USAID DIRECTOR NIBLOCK ACCOMPANYING). VALEO SAW FLOOD RELIEF PROJECTS, TALKED WITH LOCAL LAND REFORM OFFICIALS IN NUEVA ECIJA, AND VISITED RURAL BANK AND TWO PROVINCIAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ASSISTED BY USAID WHERE HE RECEIVED BRIEFING FROM GOVERNOR AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STAFFS (TARLAC AND BULACAN). VALEO APPEARED TO BE SATISFIED THAT AID FUNDS BEING WELL USED.

8. AT DINNER HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR (NOV. 14) VALEO HAD FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH SICAT, PONCE RNRILE

AND MELCHOR, AND GOT IN A FEW MINUTES OF APPARENTLY INCONSEQUENTIAL TETE-A-TETE WITH ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY COLLANTES.

9. IN GENERAL IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION THAT VALEO'S PICTURE OF PHILIPPINES AND US ROLE HERE REMAINS FAVORABLE (AS IT WAS IN 1972 ON HIS PREVIOUS VISIT). ALTHOUGH AN AFFABLE AND UNDEMANDING VISITOR, HE ASKED SUFFICIENTLY SHREWD QUESTIONS ON A NUMBER OF TOPICS (E.G., LAND REFORM) SO THAT WE SUSPECT HE RETURNS WITH A BALANCED PICTURE OF SITUATION HERE DESPITE VIP TREATMENT FROM MALACANANG. ASSUMING THAT HIS PERCEPTIONS ARE ESSENTIALLY FAVORABLE, THEY MAY OFFER SOME BALANCE TO IMPRESSIONS BROUGHT BACK BY MOOSE/MEISSNER.

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